

Statewide partnership promotes pollution prevention

Representatives share ideas during meeting at Redstone

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Environmental coordinators from throughout Alabama have some concrete ideas they can share when they return to their organizations.

Concrete recycling was among the initiatives they learned about last week during a quarterly meeting of the Alabama and U.S. Department of Defense Pollution Prevention Partnership. The Garrison's Directorate of Environment and Safety served as host for the July 27-28 meeting at Redstone which drew 15 participants.

"We have representatives from the majority of the Department of Defense facilities from the state of Alabama in attendance," Gavin Adams, of the pollution prevention unit in the Alabama Department of Environmental Management in Montgomery, said.

Besides the representatives from military posts and ADEM, there were attendees from Marshall Space Flight Center, the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. Marshall and the Corps of Engineers were first-time participants.

"As for ADEM's involvement, we recognize the Department of



Photo by Gary Rush

RECYCLING PROGRAM— Members of the DoD pollution prevention team look at an empty toner cartridge container for possible use on their installations.

Defense is one of the largest employers and largest consumers of goods in the state," Adams said. "So what the DoD facilities do is also transferable to other industries as well. And DoD facilities in the state are one of the leaders in pollution prevention and that comes from upper-level commitment all the way down through the employees."

Dan Seaver and Ken Hewitt, both of Directorate of Environ-

ment and Safety, conducted the meeting. On July 27 the attendees saw a TOW-2B missile firing at Test Area 1 and the recycling and environmental programs. The recycling programs include toner cartridges, cardboard and concrete.

"In all of our recycling, we're trying to generate a return and have these things pay for themselves," Seaver, an engineer in the compliance division, said.

In 2002 Redstone began crushing concrete so it could be reused for roads. Some 15,000 tons a year are crushed and this saves a dollar a ton, according to Hewitt, an environmental engineer and program manager for solid waste/recycling. Projected savings amount to 11 years of landfill space.

"People were standing there and watching that (concrete) operation and were amazed with

the quality of the end product," Adams said.

"This is just one of the initiatives we talk about," Seaver said.

The Alabama and DoD P2 Partnership began in 1999 with the goal of enhancing mission readiness and community involvement by promoting environmental stewardship through pollution prevention.

"We're continuing to see if you have a problem you're not alone. And the partnership is a place where you turn to solve some of those issues," Adams said. "And environmental management systems seems to be a growing topic."

"I think everyone was pretty impressed with the mission and activities here at Redstone," Seaver said. "All the issues and topics that we've discussed have been interesting and people are going back to their installations and maybe see how they can implement some of these things."

The group, which previously met this year at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, is expected to gather again this fall at Anniston Army Depot.

"The partnership allows DoD installations to work closely with EPA and state regulators to better conserve resources, support mission readiness and avoid compliance violations," Gary Rush, of the Army Environmental Center, Southeast Region Environmental Office in Atlanta, said.

Health care procedures change under contract

FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

Tricare began a new generation of health care contracts Aug. 1. The changes

in the contract will focus on improving business between Fox Army Health Center and Humana Military Healthcare Services, our Tricare network manager. Our

goal continues to be ensuring you have easy access to high quality health care.

Tricare Prime members will experience no change in access to health care at Fox Army Health Center, or to the Tricare network for referral services. However, note the following administrative changes.

The Tricare Service Center will continue to provide assistance with Tricare questions and Tricare Prime enrollment, and effective Aug. 1, the TSC also becomes your point of contact for all initial Primary Care Manager assignments, and PCM assignment changes. This change means that Tricare Prime members will no longer use Fox Army Health Center's web-based PCM Change Form. As of Aug. 1, Tricare Prime members must complete a form that will be available at the TSC and either mail it or submit it in person. The TSC may be reached at 1-800-444-5445.

The health care information line is being replaced by other health care information options that are easy to access and use. These include:

- Humana Military Healthcare Services audio library offers health care topics that you can access 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling this toll free number: 1-877-217-7946.

- e-Health Initiatives is a web based program available to all Military Health System beneficiaries on the Humana military web site at www.humana-military.com.

- Tricare Online has 24-hour general health care information by visiting this Internet site: www.tricareonline.com.

Beneficiaries can also access a Provider Locator Line around the clock by calling this toll free number: 1-800-444-5445.

Beneficiaries may access information about their Tricare benefits on the Tricare web site at www.tricare.osd.mil or visiting the TSC.

Fox Army Health Center, with Humana Military Healthcare Services, will continue to be a leader in innovative, high quality health care.